

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, NL

SUBJECT: US-GON CIVAIR TALKS -- LABOR AND A POLITICAL

LEADER SPEAK OUT

SUMMARY:

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF DUTCH CONCERN OVER CIVAIR TALKS WAS MANIFESTED IN REQUEST BY UNION LEADERS FOR MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, TO WHICH HE AGREED, AND REPRESENTATION TO EMBOFF BY MR. R.J.H. KRUISINGA, FLOOR LEADER OF C.H.U. ONE OF PARTIES USUALLY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT COALITION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED LATE NOVEMBER 7, AMBASSADOR AGREED TO REQUEST BY MR. TH. OFFERMANS, SECRETARY OF UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR THREE TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, FOR MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS MEMBERSHIP ON SUBJECT OF US-GON CIVAIR TALKS. PURSUANT TO REQUEST, AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPNAIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND TWO EMBOFFS MET MORNING NOVEMBER 8 AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT WITH GROUP OF EIGHT MEN FROM NVV, NKV, AND CNV FEDERATIONS AND THEIR  
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RESPECTIVE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNIONS. MR. TER HORST,

NVV SECRETARY FOR EMPLOYMENT, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN, READ FROM STATEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH HE PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR. IN IT, SECRETARIAT FOR THREE UNION FEDERATIONS SAID IT IS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT US PLANS TO LIMIT PASSENGER TRANSPORT OF KLM TO AND FROM US, THAT IT CONSIDERS SUCH RESTRICTION WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT IN KLM AND NETHERLANDS IN GENERAL, AND THAT "THREATENING ONE-SIDED AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE". STATEMENT CALLED ON TRANSPORTATION MINISTER WESTERTERP, AS LEADER OF DUTCH DELEGATION TO TALKS IN WASHINGTON, TO REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO AMERICAN DEMANDS AND ON AMBASSADOR TO INFORM USG OF TRADE UNION CONCERN.

2. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT CIVIL AIR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IS GOVERNED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENT. US HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD AFFECT KLM OR ITS EMPLOYEES EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF THAT AGREEMENT. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD DUTCH WORRIES ABOUT KLM, US IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT ITS AIRLINES AND THOSE WHO WORK FOR THEM. TWO NATIONS WERE FACED WITH ALLOCATION OF DISAPPOINTMENTS BECAUSE OF NEED TO ADJUST TO DEPRESSED MARKET AND HIGH FUEL COSTS. PROBLEM IS TO SEEK RATIONALIZATION OF TRAFFIC ACROSS NORTH ATLANTIC IN MANNER LEAST ONEROUS TO BOTH PARTIES. HE NOTED THAT USG HAD HELD TALKS WITH GON TWO YEARS AGO SO OUR OBJECTIVES WERE WELL KNOWN.

3. NVV TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION REPRESENTATIVE, MR. POST, CALLED KLM SYMBOL OF NATIONAL PRIDE. INJURY TO KLM WOULD DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO US-DUTCH RELATIONS.

4. AT REQUEST OF KRUISINGA, PRESENTLY SECOND CHAMBER FLOOR LEADER OF CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL UNION, AND FORMERLY STATE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION AND WATERWAYS, 1971-73, ECON COUNSELOR CALLED LATER NOV 8 AT FORMER'S OFFICE AND WAS TOLD BY KRUISINGA THAT HE HAD SERVED NOTICE (PRESS RELEASE ISSUED NOV 4) ON GON THAT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HIS PARTY WOULD HOLD GON FULLY RESPONSIBLE IF GON DID NOT STAND UP FIRMLY TO USG IN NEXT WEEK'S BILATERAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON. HE ADDED THAT INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM OF TRANSPORT WAS BOTH A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND ECONOMIC NECESSITY FOR THE NETHERLANDS AND EVERY DUTCHMAN SHOULD STANDUP AND BE COUNTED ON THIS ISSUE. HE THEN SAID, AS A LONG-STANDING FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF THE UNITED STATES, HE SINCERELY

HOPED THE USG WAS NOT UNDERESTIMATING HOW SENSITIVE AN ISSUE WAS BEING DEALT WITH, WHICH, IF BADLY HANDLED, COULD SPARK A WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION IN THE NETHERLANDS. WHEN ECON COUNSELOR REVIEWED US POSITION IN LIGHT OF NEED TO DEAL WITH STARK ECONOMIC FACTS FACING MAJOR OPERATORS OVER NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES AND IN KEEPING WITH BERMUDA AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, KRUISINGA RESPONDED THAT SUCH A MAJOR PROBLEM OUGHT TO BE HANDLED BY A LARGER INTERNATIONAL BODY (IN HIS PRESS RELEASE HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EC BECOME INVOLVED). WHILE CONCEDING THAT AT LEAST SOME EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO FIND A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IN THE BILATERAL TALKS, HE AGAIN RETURNED TO HIS EARLIER THEMES AND CONCLUDED IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT USG FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT UNILATERAL ACTION BY USG IN WASHINGTON TALKS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL AND POPULARLY SUPPORTED DUTCH RELATIONS. GOULD

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